



Wright - Dunbar Heritage News

Lights, Camera, ACTION!



Bob Petersen portrays Amos Ives Root -- here he recreates the look of astonishment when Root first saw a Wright Flyer take to the sky. Courtesy of Aperture Films Ltd.

In 2004 Aperture Films Ltd., from Orange County, CA, was awarded a contract to develop a new interpretive film that will be shown at the Wright -Dunbar Interpretive Center and the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center. This high definition film will examine the Wright brothers' invention of the airplane with special emphasis on their work at Huffman Prairie Flying Field. The program features sophisticated computer graphic animation to realistically illustrate the innovations they engineered. The film will be narrated by Martin Sheen and include an original sound track. It will start showing at the park in early 2007.



Actors and film crew at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Courtesy of Ann Honious.



Wilbur and Orville setting up camp on the sand dunes of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Courtesy of Ann Honious

2006 Aviation Heritage Speakers Series

Engineers Club
110 East Monument Avenue
Dayton, Ohio 45402

Program free
& open to the public.

• Mark N. Brown
Living in Space
7:00 pm
Thursday, October 12th

Astronaut Mark Brown will talk about what it is like to live in space and about his experiences as an astronaut. Reception follows presentation.

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Bike - with - a - Ranger Tours

This past summer Park Ranger Arthur Currence launched a new Bike - With - A - Ranger program consisting of alternating



Touring cycle-ranger Arthur Currence talks about the history of the Wright-Dunbar neighborhood during one of his Sunday morning excursions. Kay Minardi of Dayton Cycle Club is in the back ground. Courtesy of Dan Carrigan

tours highlighting sites of interest on the Aviation Trail. The rides were held the first and third Sunday of each month June through September. The bike tours took riders to Orville's Lab, the Dunbar House, The Wright Company (at Delphi), Carillon Historical Park, the site of the Pinnacles, and Sunwatch.

The first ride of each month is about 10 miles, and stays close to home in the West Dayton area and nearby Carillon Historical Park or Riverscape.

The second ride goes a bit farther — 16 miles to Sunwatch and the site of the Pinnacles.

Many riders of all ages, shapes and sizes have left early on a Sunday morning (8:30am) while the streets and bikeways of Dayton are still quiet. Cyclists liked the family friendly and comfortably paced rides that provide them an opportunity to discover some of the places that make Dayton special.

The Grand Tour of Wilbur's Wride of 1892 is the last chance to tour with Ranger Currence this season — this one takes place on September 17. The summer's closing grand tour features an

opportunity to follow the pneumatic tire tracks of the Wright brothers on the 31 mile circuit described in a letter from Wilbur to Katharine. Their tour passed the Fairgrounds, Oakwood, Centerville, Miamisburg, Miamisburg Mound, West Carrollton, and site that becomes Carillon Park before heading home. The trip was 31 miles long. Like the brothers, you'll climb the "*Classic Heights of Runnymede*", see their grandfather's first home site "*out West*" (i.e. Ohio), their great uncle's home still standing in Centerville, and eventually the Miamisburg mound. The ride is moderate and geared for the experienced rider. It will pass through potentially high volume automobile traffic and include some good climbs. Admission to Sunwatch and Carillon Historical Park is complimentary.

For information on the September 17th ride, contact Ranger Currence at 937.225-7705.



Dayton Aviation Heritage Hurricane Deployments

Believe it or not, Ohio has played a significant role in the hurricane relief efforts throughout Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Two employees from the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park were deployed to the "Deep South" to help the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) assist residents with removing vegetative or storm-related construction debris from public roads and right-of-ways. Debris removal involved working with contractors from all over the United States and their equipment of dump trucks and loaders and then transporting the vegetative debris to mulching site and the construction debris to local garbage dumps. In addition, staff also supported the "Blue Roof" project which gave residents the option to have a temporary roof (a blue tarp) installed on their home until a permanent roof could be put into place. As of December 2005, USACE

had removed approximately 23 million cubic yards of vegetative debris, which equates 230 football fields with each piled more than 50 feet high!

Mandy Murray, a Park Guide, was deployed to Hattiesburg, MS during November and December 2005. She was part of the Task Force Hope - Mississippi project and was a quality assurance control officer for debris removal crews from Louisiana and Illinois. She worked 12 hour days from 6:30 am to 7:00 pm. Mandy was fortunate enough in her hours off to visit New Orleans, LA and Bay St. Louis, MS.

Darrin Palean, also a Park Guide, was deployed to Hattiesburg, MS during February and March 2006. He was part of Group 62 which included NPS personnel from all over the United States and was responsible for roofing homes

throughout the community. Darrin was fortunate enough to explore many national park areas that had been heavily damaged by Hurricanes Rita, Wilma, and Katrina.

Dayton Aviation is proud to be able to assist with the hurricane relief efforts throughout the southeastern United States. The participants created unforgettable friendships and memories that will stay with them forever.

Mystery In The Shadows

The details of daily life are things most of us do not give great thought to. They are certainly not the sort of things that we write about or record to a large extent. The effort to recreate history and historical scenes is constantly running up against a brick wall –



the lack of information. This can create mysteries for which there seems no logical explanation. One such mystery recently came to light during restoration work at 26 S. Williams Street.

During preparations to lay a new floor in the basement of the house, a feature was uncovered that seems very odd. Dug into the soil below the existing floor was a trench like feature. Lined with bricks it measured 13 feet 6 inches from the east to the west end. The trench had an open width between 20 and 21 inches and a depth below the existing floor of the basement of between 16 and 23 inches. At the eastern end of the trench, in the middle of the basement, it widened into a circular feature with a diameter of approximately 32 inches. The overall appearance of the feature is similar to that of a wooden match stick, with the bulb end of the stick below the center of the basement floor.

The bricks lining the trench were set with mortar and there were no indications of pipes or other penetrations that might have once gone through the bricks. The floor of the trench was paved with a thin layer of concrete.

When this was penetrated, there was nothing but gravel below. The bricks were resting on the gravel with no additional foundations or any indications of soil disturbances.

Several possible suggestions have been put forth as to what the feature might have been. Some thought it might have been a cistern for the collection of water. Others suggested that it was a pipe trench for plumbing. Another suggestion was that it might have been used as an ash pit or dump. Other suggestions included an ice chest or root cellar, a very narrow bath tub, or a covered hiding place. The fact remains that we do not know why the feature was constructed or what it was used for. Historical research is often like a mystery. There are questions that remain unanswered. If you have any ideas as to what this feature might be, please contact Bob Petersen at 937.425.0008.

THANKS!

The National Park Service wishes to thank these individuals for their contributions to the park's museum collection:

- Mr. Harry Seifert of Kettering, Ohio, for loaning 11 period Dayton cigar boxes for display in the Hale Grocery exhibit of the WDIC.
- Mr. John Kittredge of Kalamazoo, Michigan, for donating 26 photographs from 1909-1910 of a Wright Company airplane at Huffman Prairie Flying Field.
- Mr. Jerry Sharkey of Dayton, Ohio, for loaning his personal journals from 1988 to 1994 concerning the creation of the national park.
- Mr. Noah Greenhill of Dayton, Ohio, for donating two 360° panoramic photographs of Centennial of Practical Flight activities at Huffman Prairie Flying Field in 2005.

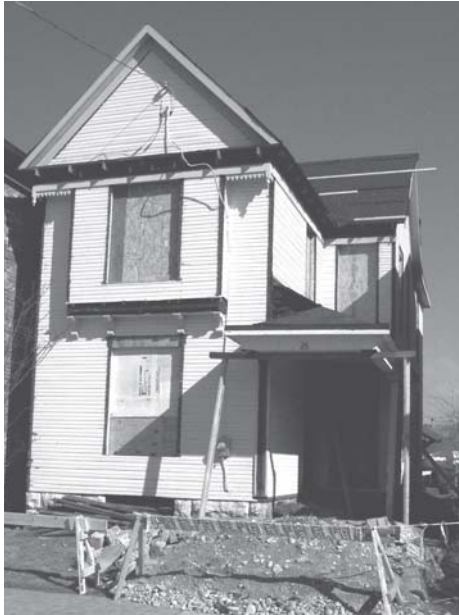
Hawthorn Hill Chandeliers

Visitors to the Wright Cycle Company Complex or the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center encounter most of the park's museum collection during their visits: the park keeps very few artifacts from the eyes of the interested public. Those few artifacts that the park does not display tend to be items that contribute little to a visitor's understanding of the significance of the Wright brothers or Paul Dunbar. One of the largest such collections stored by the park contains original wallpaper samples used to recreate the wallpaper found in the rehabilitated Hoover Block.

However, four newly - purchased artifacts currently in curatorial storage have significance concerning the life of Orville Wright. This past November, the park, through the assistance of Harry Seifert of Kettering, discovered that two chandeliers

that once hung in Hawthorn Hill, Orville Wright's estate in Oakwood, were for sale on the internet auction site eBay. Judith Truitt, of Wheaton, Illinois, offered these chandeliers, which hung in Hawthorn Hill's entry foyer and dining room, for sale. Her father acquired them when NCR renovated Hawthorn Hill into a corporate guest house after Orville's death in 1948. For many years, the chandeliers hung in Mrs. Truitt's homes; she decided to sell them upon moving to a smaller condominium. She also sold the park two wooden candlesticks formerly of the living room mantle in Hawthorn Hill. Photographs of Hawthorn Hill's rooms taken immediately after Orville's death confirm the provenance – the origin – of the chandeliers and candlesticks, showing all four pieces in their 1948 locations. Today, these mementos from Hawthorn Hill are closer to their first home.

26 South Williams Street Rehabilitation



Start of construction at 26 South Williams

Nestled between The Wright Cycle Company at 22 South Williams Street and the National Park's Administrative Offices at 30 South Williams Street is 26 South Williams Street, a Queen Anne style-influenced residential structure which is undergoing rehabilitation. A rental property for the majority of its life, 26 South Williams Street was never the residence of one person of any significant historical influence. Its significance stems from its contribution to the West Third Street Historic District and the historic context and cultural landscape features associated with The Wright Cycle Company building, a National Historic Landmark. Located approximately two feet from the south side of the bicycle shop, 26 South Williams Street provides a visual slice into the Wrights' world during their time in the neighborhood when Orville and Wilbur began developing their ideas concerning aviation before moving to 1127 West Third Street in the autumn of 1897.

The house is approximately 115 years old, but it is difficult to pinpoint the exact date when the structure was originally constructed. There is no documentation of the house's completion date; but there are some clues. A map from 1897 shows the completed building, while an 1887 map shows no structure on the lot. Another clue is the tax assessment increased from \$410 in 1896 to \$1100 in 1897.

So, the building probably was built in 1896 to 1897 while the Wright brothers were in their South Williams Street shop.

One of the residents of 26 South Williams Street was the Frank Hamburger family. Frank, who owned a hardware store at 1107 West Third Street, knew the Wright brothers and often helped them with their hardware needs. When his store was flooded in 1898, Orville and Wilbur came to the rescue. They took off their coats, rolled up their sleeves, and helped Frank rescue his supply of nails which were in the cellar and in danger of rusting from the flood waters. The Wrights refused any compensation for their good deed, and Frank never forgot. He would often provide them with items from his shop at no cost. He and his family lived in the house from 1908 until 1914.

Rehabilitation of 26 South Williams Street began shortly after Thanksgiving 2005 and should be completed in the autumn of 2006. The rehabilitated structure will become the home of the Aviation Heritage Foundation, the management entity for the NAHA.



Construction nears completion.

Park Programs

Holiday Book Store Open House

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, December 3rd
Come and browse our Book Store open house where you can visit local authors during their book signing presentation. Free gift wrapping and refreshments available.

Kid's Programs: FREE

Afternoon Tea and Craft making,
from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, November 11th.
Stop in and enjoy a spot of tea (punch) and make and take home Thanksgiving crafts at the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

An Old Fashion Holiday for the whole family
December 2nd, 9th and 16th
Ranger led walking tours of the Wright - Dunbar Village at 2:00 pm. Come prepare for the holiday season and learn about the traditions of Christmas, Chanukah and Kwanzaa at the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center. Make and take crafts home to share for the holidays. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

2006 Aviation Trail Inc. Event

103rd Anniversary of Flight Celebration
6:00 pm — Friday, December 15th
National Museum of the United States
Air Force
National Aviation Hall of Fame 2007 Inductee Announcement
WPAFB U.S. Air Force Band of Flight Concert
Reservations required — call (937) 434-9108 or 275-7788.



Did you know,

Judi Hart is the Education Specialist for the Park? School groups are more than welcome to explore our facilities. For more information about programs and what we have to offer, and to make a reservation, contact Judi at 937.225.7705.

VIP Program For 2006

The Volunteers In Parks program assists research projects and routine operations in the park. At both Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center and the Wright - Dunbar Interpretive Center volunteers provide valuable support to the day-to-day operations. Many thanks go to Tom White, Steve Weaver, Carolyn Barber, Harry Seifert, and Steve Sepeck for their time and effort.

New Park Management Assistant



Nicholas Georgeff is new to the National Park Service and the park following 26 years with the US Army. His last Army duty station was at Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio where he taught ROTC to freshman and senior students. He received a BA in Political Science from The Citadel, and a Masters in Education from Mansfield University in Pennsylvania. During his Army career, Nicholas earned his Airborne wings, Ranger tab, and Air Assault badge. Nicholas is very excited about joining the National Park Service and its role within the Dayton community.

Nicholas married his lovely wife Cassie in Charleston, S.C. They are the proud parents of three children; Nicole, Nicholas II, and Ariel.

Speaker Series for 2006

Mark N. Brown on Living in Space

Thursday, October 12th at 7:00 pm
Engineers Club, 110 E. Monument Street
Dayton, Ohio
Program free and open to the public.

Mark Brown will talk about what it is like to live in space and about his experiences as an astronaut.

Brown has enjoyed a distinguished career as an Air Force fighter pilot, engineer, NASA astronaut, NASA manager, and corporate manager. His unique combination of operational and technical experience has made him an invaluable asset to the Air Force, NASA, and Computer Sciences Corporation. This was clearly demonstrated during two highly successful space shuttle missions, as a member of the Challenger Accident Investigation Team, as a member of the Solid Rocket Motor Redesign Team, as the senior astronaut on the Space Station Program, as a GRC International, Inc., Program Manager, as an AT&T District Manager, and as a CSC Vice President and General Manager.



New Lead Park Ranger

We are pleased to announce that one of our own, Park Guide Julia Frasure, accepted the Wright Cycle Co. Complex's Lead Park Ranger position in November, 2005. Julia has been with the park since December 2002 as a staff member at the Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center. She is an archaeologist with degrees from Wright State U. (B.A.) and the U. of Illinois (M.A.). Julia brings a varied background to this position. Prior to coming to us, she worked at Wright - Patterson AFB in clerical and budget work, spent 6 years as a supervisor with Wright State University's Field School in Archaeology, and taught part-time at the U. of Dayton, Wright State U., and Sinclair Community College. Julia has adjusted to the change in responsibilities and we occasionally see her peak out from underneath a mountain of paperwork! Drop by The Wright Cycle Co. Complex and congratulate her; she can be frequently seen at the visitor's desk!



Wright Company Factory Boundary Assessment

In January 2005, following direction from Congress, the National Park Service initiated a study of “alternatives for incorporating The Wright Company factory as a unit of Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park.” The draft Wright Company Factory Boundary Assessment was released in January 2006 for public comment.

The Wright Company factory buildings have had a rich and lengthy association with the history of transportation. In these buildings, the Wright brothers helped to transform the airplane from a curious wonder into a serious method of transportation. Many aviation advancements and improvements were introduced in this factory. Overall, The Wright Company factory played a major role in the birth of the American aviation industry, bearing witness to the early development of the age of flight. There are no other existing resources as intimately associated with The Wright Company or the beginnings of the American aviation industry.

The technological advances introduced to the world by the Wright brothers with their flight demonstrations of 1908 and 1909, and mass produced by The Wright Company factory transformed the American economy, society, culture, and national character, establishing the foundation for the twentieth century as an American century. For these reasons The Wright Company factory buildings are nationally significant resources.

The Wright Company Factory Boundary Assessment analyzed four alternatives: The first alternative would be no action; the second alternative would have the National Park Service assume ownership and management of the site; the third alternative would have a non-NPS entity assume ownership and management of the site; the fourth alternative would have a non-NPS entity own the site while the NPS would operate it. Copies of the

Boundary Assessment are available at park headquarters.

The public comment period for the Boundary Assessment closed March 10, 2006. Following consideration of all comments and completion of any appropriate revisions, a final copy of the Boundary Assessment will be forwarded to Congress for consideration.



Wright Company Factory building-- machine shop (1911). Courtesy of Wright State University Special Collections and Archives.

New Wright brothers audio tour at Carillon Park

Dayton History at Carillon Park has recently incorporated a hand-held audio tour using several of its exhibit buildings to continue celebrating our region's Wright brothers heritage in a new, high - tech way. The NPS provided funding for this project to improve accessibility to Carillon Park's exhibits. The audio tour has two focuses - first, it provides audio descriptions of the exhibits in the Wright Brothers Aviation Center for the visually impaired. Secondly, the audio program provides in - depth history to enhance the Wright brothers related exhibits at the park.

Visitors can experience in - depth history through the audio tour in the following exhibit buildings:

- *John W. Berry, Sr. Wright Brothers Aviation Center*
- *Dicke Family Transportation Center*
- *Dayton Cyclery*
- *Deeds Barn*
- *Newcom Tavern*

From the 1905 Wright Flyer III to the Barney and Smith car, from Dayton's oldest surviving structure to the Wright family story, visitors from around the globe can discover how the Wright brothers impacted the world.

Dayton History at Carillon Park is open Monday – Saturday from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sundays from noon – 5 p.m. Admission to the Park is free for members. General admission \$8/adult, \$7/Seniors and \$5/students ages 3 -17. Children ages 3 and under are free.

Aviation Trail, Inc. Celebrates 25th Year

It's been twenty-five years since the founding members of Aviation Trail Inc. began to promote the heritage of aviation that is so important to the culture of the Miami Valley – this passion and pride is still going strong today.

Recently, on July 7th of this year at ATI's Visitor Center and Museum, West Third Street and South Williams Street in Dayton, Ohio, ATI invited the public to view its historical photos and artifacts with a dinner to kick it off its 25th anniversary. The exhibits were from the trail's organizational archives and its extensive parachute collection which is the focus of its Parachute Museum on the second floor of the building. Also on exhibit was the National Aviation Heritage Area's new display promoting Dayton's aviation history. Following its premiere at ATI's 25th anniversary it traveled to the Experimental Aircraft Association's Air Venture Oshkosh (Wis.) July 24-30. In the George "JR" Wedekind Theater there was periodical showings of "25 Years of Memories," a slide presentation on the history and accomplishments of Aviation Trail.

Marvin Christian, ATI president, said the retrospective made people aware of how much Aviation Trail had accomplished over the years, and how seamlessly it has worked with Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park. "We began in 1981 with wanting to develop a trail of aviation-related sites that would draw in tourists to the area. In that effort we saved and restored the last Wright brothers' bicycle shop still on its original property (22 South Williams St.), and rescued the nearby historic Hoover Block, where the Wrights operated a printing business," he said. Those early accomplishments led to the establishment of Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park in 1992 – "we're very proud of the close relationship we have with the park."

Over these past 25 years ATI has been thankful to the many local public and private organizations and individuals, and many volunteers who have helped them in so many ways — financially and with moral support. They are all owed a debt of gratitude.

A lot has transpired over the past 25 years. Aviation Trail was incorporated in August 1981 as a not-for-profit organization following a successful tour to acquaint community leaders with the chosen trail sites. One hundred seventy-five guests on five special RTA buses toured 10 selected aviation-related sites, with underwriting by the Dayton-Montgomery County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The newly formed group also published (and continues to update and publish) a free brochure about the sites. A book that offers detailed descriptions of the trail is also published, *A Field Guide to Flight: on the Aviation Trail in Dayton, Ohio*, by Mary Ann Johnson. More recently, in cooperation with the Dayton Cycling Club, the trail also has published a brochure for a Bicycle Aviation Trail that winds along the Great Miami River, linking nine trail sites associated with Wilbur and Orville Wright.

The many accomplishments of Aviation Trail, Inc.

- ➔ Owns and has inventoried the extensive Dave Gold parachute collection after its arrival in Dayton in 1986; in partnership with Wright State's Special Collections and Archives has catalogued the printed and media matter in the collection.
- ➔ ATI purchase and saved The Wright Cycle Company building and Hoover Block and restored and opened The Wright Cycle Company building to the public in 1986
- ➔ Since 1983 has hosted a Trailblazer Award Banquet and Ceremony on Wilbur Wright's birthday, April 16, to recognize individuals and organizations which have furthered aviation in the greater Miami Valley. Twenty-four individuals and 12 organizations have been so honored.
- ➔ Publishes *The Wright Flyer*, a newsletter to inform its members of aviation-related events in the group and the community.
- ➔ On October 16, 2004, dedicated the theater in the Aviation Trail Visitor Center and Museum in memory of George "JR" Wedekind, its long-time trail member, president and enthusiast.
- ➔ Supports aviation-related educational events which have included Elderhostels at the University of Dayton, classroom-centered school activities, essay contests on aviation, and the video *On the Aviation Trail in Dayton, Ohio*.
- ➔ On June 27, 2003, joined with the National Park Service, and the Ohio Historical Society for the dedication of the Wright-Dunbar Interpretive Center, the Aviation Trail Visitor Center and Museum, and the Paul Laurence Dunbar State Memorial.
- ➔ Envisioned development of the Wright-Dunbar Village as an enhancement to tourists' experience of The Wright Cycle Company building and the Hoover Block.
- ➔ Annually hosts a luncheon celebrating National Aviation Day, Aug. 19, and the mutual birthdays of Orville Wright and his sister Katharine. For many years this event hosted alumni of McCook Field (1917-1927) and its successor Wright Field.
- ➔ Annually celebrates the anniversary of the first powered flight, Dec. 17, 1903, in cooperation with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and, more recently, with the National Aviation Hall of Fame.
- ➔ Partnered with Wright State University on the 100th anniversary of powered flight for a special luncheon and video hook-up broadcasting activities at Kitty Hawk, N. C., and supported Inventing Flight activities.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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National Historical Park
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Dayton Aviation Heritage
National Historical Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of Interior

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(937) 225-7705
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Teacher- to - Teacher Workshop

The first in a series of teacher workshops co-sponsored by the National Park Service and the Department of Education was held at Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park on June 22-23, 2006. The Department of Education's Teacher- to - Teacher workshops bring some of the nation's best teachers and practitioners together to share their strategies for raising student achievement and informing teachers of the latest, successful research-based practices. For the first time, one of these workshops was linked to a national park site. Hosted at Dayton Aviation Heritage, the workshop used the story of the Wright brothers as a basis for developing curriculum-based programming in history and math for K-8 teachers. Two other co-sponsored workshops will occur in national park sites this year; one at Edison National Historic Site and the other in association with Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.



Ann Honious, Chief of E&RM, Bob Taft, Ohio Governor, Larry Blake, Superintendent, and Carolyn Snowbarger, Department of Education.

If you would like to find out more about our park and partners, e-mail us and we'll make sure you receive the latest news from

**Dayton Aviation Heritage
National Historical Park.**

Also e-mail us if you no longer want a newsletter.
daav_info@nps.gov

Thanks!